

# BOOKS

**Broken Lives** by Colonel Bob Stewart, Harper Collins, London, 1993. \$14.95.

With American infantrymen patrolling the borders of Macedonia to prevent the spread of civil war in the former Yugoslavia, and 20,000 soldiers still on call to police the peace agreement recently vetoed by the Bosnian Serbs, it is hard to imagine a more timely book than Colonel Bob Stewart's *Broken Lives*. The story of 1st Battalion the Cheshire Regiment's deployment to Bosnia from 29 October 1992 through 11 May 1993, *Broken Lives* provides a painfully clear picture of the political, logistical, and military challenges one battalion overcame while it provided a degree of peace and security in one of the most difficult pieces of political and geographic terrain in the former Yugoslavia.

Colonel Bob Stewart, the commander of 1st Battalion the Cheshire Regiment since March 1991, pulls no punches in this riveting first-person account of the period from 22 August 1992, when his unit was alerted that it was "on call" to deploy, through the day he turned over the mission to another battalion. Extremely honest about the difficulties he faced working within the framework of a United Nations command, and about the troubled political situation on the ground while he was deployed, Stewart was embroiled in controversy throughout the deployment: The publication of this book will not endear him to the United Nations high command. It is his bluntness that makes Stewart's *Broken Lives* a must-read primer for any unit that may deploy, not just to Bosnia, but on any United Nations peacekeeping mission.

From the first chapter, "A Rush to Wait," which depicts the initial alert and the preparation of the Cheshire Regiment to deploy, *Broken Lives* is filled with practical tactical, operational, and strategic lessons well worth review. The battalion deployed with Warrior infantry fighting vehicles that were new to the soldiers — almost no one in the battalion had fired one prior to deployment notification. An intensive gunnery program coincided with tactical training focused on convoy escort, anti-ambush drills, route clearance, "picketing" routes by stationing outposts at intervals along MSRs, refugee relief, anti-sniper operations, and dealing with the media. Stewart is particularly interesting on the last subject, believing that getting the media "on your side" is among the most important functions of commanders in peacekeeping operations. He later details how he used friendly relations with the press to pressure warring factions: When operating under restrictive rules of engagement, the television camera is often the most potent weapon of a peacekeeper.

Unlike traditional military operations, usually controlled through firm mission state-

ments and divisible into discrete phases, peacekeeping operations are harder to pin down and subject to "mission creep," which created a number of problems for the American mission in Somalia. Stewart recounts his personal mission analysis, from the broad guidance he received at the Ministry of Defence in London through the refinement he performed while on a commander's reconnaissance in an attempt to reach Tuzla. The British area of operations was centered on this city in Northern Bosnia. Its mission was to assist in the provision of humanitarian assistance in support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Stewart interpreted this mission quite broadly, stepping in himself as a negotiator between warring faction leaders on numerous occasions. Stewart's bravery and his personal relationships with faction leaders created a succession of cease-fires that, for a short time, brought a measure of peace to the troubled area for which his men were responsible.

*Broken Lives* is the rarest of all military books: a combination of a first-person account of a conflict that is currently raging and a primer on peacekeeping operations from the strategic to the tactical levels of war. Filled with practical instruction on peacekeeping tasks, from the importance of Rules of Engagement (ROE) instruction and cards carried by every soldier, to checkpoint negotiations, to the fact that most bridges in the Tuzla area strained to support the 32-ton Warriors and could not possibly support main battle tanks, *Broken Lives* should be read by every soldier and officer who may be sent to support peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia.

Unfortunately, it may be hard to find. I hope that it is already available in libraries and American bookstores, but this is a book worth owning yourself, and soon. It is available from Harper Collins Publishers, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8JB. A good paperback edition, including the author's photographs and some useful maps, can be purchased for \$14.95. It is worth the investment. This book may save American lives in the former Yugoslavia.

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**Standard Guide to U.S. World War II Tanks and Artillery** by Konrad F. Schreier Jr., Krause Publications, 700 East State Street, Iola, Wis. 54990. \$24.95.

In the last few years, several authors have published guides to the tanks and ar-

tillery fielded by the United States during World War II. Konrad F. Schreier Jr. has written what is probably the best guide available, *Standard Guide to U.S. World War II Tanks and Artillery*. The book is exhaustive, listing every tank, half track, artillery piece, air defense gun, and armored car used in World War II by the U.S., either in combat or in training.

The book has 255 pages of text, an incredible amount of information. Nearly forgotten systems such as the 105-mm M-3 towed howitzer and the tank-mounted multiple rocket launcher are covered. One sequence of photographs covers the process used to move and emplace the 36-inch "Little David" mortar. That is not a misprint — it had a bore of 36-inches! It was developed to destroy fixed fortifications and was not deployed with any combat troops.

If the book had only described the weapons, it would be useful. What makes it invaluable is the discussion of artillery fire control and ammunition. While U.S. artillery systems were comparable with any other country's, the U.S. system of fire control was the best. American artillerymen had mastered the methods of delivering fire on the target in a very short time. The effectiveness of U.S. artillery during World War II was appreciated by U.S. soldiers, envied by our allies, and admired by our enemies, even as they sought cover.

Included in the book is a short section on ammunition, a subject normally overlooked by those who discuss armor and artillery. The concentration is on the systems, but falls short in recognizing that, aside from the shock power of movement, tanks and artillery normally kill targets with delivered ammunition.

The only real criticism of the book is the failure to include armor thickness and penetration capabilities of all the armor systems, either as part of the vehicle description or in a comprehensive chart. Failure to include this information makes it difficult to understand why U.S. soldiers felt undergunned and underarmored. The author's statement about the ability of the 76-mm HVAP projectile to kill Panther and Tiger tanks overstates the round's ability to actually kill those tanks. While the HVAP projectile could penetrate their side armor at a long range, the Shermans had a serious range disadvantage when engaging the Panther and Tiger tanks over the frontal arc.

If you are interested in World War II tanks and artillery, you should purchase Schreier's book. The book is very readable and the price is reasonable.

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# Jane's Armour & Artillery Available on CD-ROM

by Vivian Thompson, ARMOR Staff

For those of you who are new to the world of CD-ROM, like we are, the first venture into Jane's CD-ROM can be a little intimidating. But after a couple of test runs through the example searches, it all starts to make sense. With a powerful search tool like *Jane's Armour & Artillery*, the possibilities seem endless. Results of research that once would have taken hours are now available in seconds, all at your fingertips.

The CD-ROM includes three interfaces — Jane's Interface, ROMWARE Interface, and a Windows Interface. It includes the capability to do multi-level searches; limit the fields displayed; sort by country, model, etc.; and even modify previous searches. Additionally, the ROMWARE Interface includes the ability to create Hypersets. For instance, when viewing a record on screen, you might cross a word or topic of interest. By pointing to that word, you create a new set of records that can be displayed by simply pressing the F2 key. You can create up to nine Hyperset searches at a time.

There are also photos and line drawings of the equipment, retrievable by model number or name. The photo files are stored in an easy-to-locate numbering system (in PCX format).

And if you're tired of dragging out that 6-pound hardcopy volume of *Jane's* to verify a spelling or acronym, you'll really appreciate the *Jane's Defence Glossary* (also included on the CD-ROM). With just a few keystrokes, the information is yours. By using the Glossary and a two- or three-word

search, we were able to find and verify many an acronym. For example: You want to find HEMTT, the correct terminology and acronym spelling, but you don't know either. You know that it contains the words HEAVY and TRUCK. By using a two-word search with the **AND** Boolean operator, you narrow the possibilities down to just a few records. Then with a quick flip through those records, you find "Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck," the whole process taking only a few seconds. Actually, this is underuse of such a powerful database, but for those tasked with verifying data, a handy capability to have.

The glossary also contains other information including: officer ranks for NATO countries, U.S. military aircraft designations, U.S. missile and RPV designations, NATO reporting names for former Soviet aircraft and missiles, body armor threat levels, units of measurement, conversion factors, periodic table, international phonetic alphabet, company types and abbreviations, membership of international organizations, and country information (population, area, defense spending, and GNP).

There's also a Master Index that cross-references other *Jane's* yearbooks, including title, edition, page, country, equipment type, model, and manufacturer.

While the CD-ROM is probably a bit pricey for the occasional writer/researcher, it would be an asset for prolific military and technical writers, and a worthwhile addition for any library.

**System Requirements:** IBM PC/XT or AT with monochrome, EGA or VGA monitor, 640K RAM and MS-DOS 3.0 or greater. CD-ROM drive with MS-DOS extensions version 2.0 or greater. HP Laserjet or compatible laser printer for printing images. Hard disk not required but recommended for some advanced retrieval features. Additionally, to run the Windows interface, you need at least a 386 processor and a minimum of 2MB of memory and Windows version 3.0 or higher.

(We tested this CD-ROM on a 486DX2-66 Mhz system with 32MB RAM and SVGA monitor.)

**Jane's Armour & Artillery, 1993-94.**

**Price — \$795.00.**

(The 1994-95 edition was scheduled for release in December 1994.)

## Available from:

Jane's Information Group  
1340 Braddock Place, Suite 300  
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The *Jane's Armour & Artillery*, 1993-94 CD-ROM offers a wealth of pictorial information. Here, three different views of the Swedish Bandkanon 1A Self-Propelled Gun, including a line drawing of the vehicle. The database text contains photo captions.

